



FEBRUARY 2017

SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM

HIGHLIGHTS



SLS FLIGHT HARDWARE ON ITS WAY TO CAPE

FLIGHT ICPS STARTS JOURNEY AHEAD OF FIRST FLIGHT OF SLS AND ORION

NASA astronaut Butch Wilmore stands in front of the flight interim cryogenic propulsion stage (ICPS) at a Feb. 17 media event at United Launch Alliance in Decatur, Alabama. The hardware is for the first flight of SLS and is on its way to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The ICPS is a liquid oxygen/liquid hydrogen-based system that will provide the thrust needed to send the Orion spacecraft and 13 secondary payloads beyond the moon before Orion returns to Earth. The ICPS is the first integrated piece of SLS hardware to arrive at the Cape and undergo final processing and testing before being moved to Ground Systems Development & Operations at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The ICPS was designed and built by ULA and The Boeing Co. in Huntsville, Alabama.



A RAINBOW VIEW OF NASA'S RS-25 ENGINE TEST

On Feb. 22, NASA engineers successfully conducted the first RS-25 test of 2017 on the A-1 test stand at NASA's Stennis Space Center. The initial hotfire is part of a series of tests to be performed this year on both development and flight engines for SLS. Shown from the viewpoint of an overhead drone, the RS-25 ran the scheduled 380 seconds, allowing engineers to monitor various engine operating conditions.

Watch the test here: bit.ly/2mn2nkc



FIRST BOOSTER FORWARD SKIRT FOR SLS ARRIVES AT CAPE



The forward skirt for the left-hand SLS booster arrived Feb. 1 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida from booster prime contractor Orbital ATK's facilities in Promontory, Utah. The left-hand forward skirt was transported to Hangar AF, where it will continue refurbishment to support the first flight test of the Orion spacecraft atop the SLS rocket from Launch Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center.

More on the work here: biy.ly/2lpvCOW

HUT, HUT, HIKE! NASA GOES TO SUPER BOWL LIVE



Future deep space explorers at Super Bowl Live build the world's most powerful rocket.



Attendees at Super Bowl Live, a nine-day festival celebrating Super Bowl LI, take off in the "Future Flight" ride at Discovery Green in downtown Houston. For this attraction, riders "take a trip to Mars and back" using virtual reality goggles on a 90-foot drop tower.



Super Bowl Live guests get up close and personal with the SLS RS-25 engine.



While supporting NASA media events during the 2017 Super Bowl Live fan festival, Marshall Center Director Todd May, center, takes a journey to Mars and returns to Earth, landing on the Super Bowl LI 50-yard-line in the virtual reality ride "Future Flight."



I am
building SLS

Anton Kolomiets
United Launch Alliance Engineer

I AM BUILDING SLS: ANTON KOLOMIETS

This ULA engineer is working on major hardware for NASA's deep-space rocket!

Meet Anton Kolomiets: bit.ly/2lz7wRW

SPACEFLIGHT PARTNERS: *Major Tool & Machine*

Major Tool & Machine supports SLS by manufacturing critical components for the RS-25 engine combustion chamber, powerhead and nozzle. The company also manufactures ground testing supports for the solid rocket boosters and key components for the Orion stage adapter and launch vehicle stage adapter.

**375
EMPLOYEES**

*Indianapolis,
Indiana*

ACTING NASA ADMINISTRATOR ROBERT LIGHTFOOT SURVEYS MICHLOUD TORNADO DAMAGE



Acting NASA Administrator Robert Lightfoot, second from right, tours NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. The visit was to learn about damage from the Feb. 7 tornado strike at the facility. In less than a week, the team helped return Michoud to normal operations with limited exceptions, including manufacturing on the SLS core stage.

NASA TO STUDY ADDING CREW TO FIRST FLIGHT OF SLS AND ORION



NASA is assessing the feasibility of adding a crew to the first integrated flight of SLS and the Orion spacecraft, Exploration Mission-1 (EM-1). Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot announced Feb. 15 that he has asked William Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate in Washington, to conduct the study, and it is now underway. NASA expects the feasibility study to be completed in early spring.

Read the full story here: bit.ly/2lrBxTM

FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF NASA'S NEW LAUNCH VEHICLE FOR DEEP SPACE:

Twitter [Twitter.com/NASA_SLS](https://twitter.com/NASA_SLS)

Facebook [Facebook.com/NASASLS](https://facebook.com/NASASLS)

COMING UP:

California supplier visits

RS-25 engine testing

Core stage pathfinder delivered to Michoud